



OCTOBER 21, 2026

Update on Temporary Protected Status for Ukraine

On October 19, 2026, the temporary protected status (TPS) designation for Ukraine was scheduled to expire, following an 18-month extension that was announced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on January 17, 2025. However, the scheduled expiration date has passed without DHS issuing a formal notice either extending or terminating TPS for Ukraine. On October 19, an [alert was posted on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\) website](#) stating that Ukrainian TPS beneficiaries will continue to retain TPS protections, including employment authorization, pending an announcement “made at the appropriate time.”¹

What is TPS and why is it important for Ukrainians in the United States?

TPS is a temporary form of humanitarian relief for people from a designated country, allowing them to remain in the United States legally when conditions in their country of origin make safe return impractical or impossible due to an armed conflict, environmental disaster, epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. Once TPS is granted to an individual, he or she is eligible for employment and travel authorization and is protected from deportation. To register for TPS, a person must meet certain eligibility requirements, such as being physically present in the United States since a specified date and passing a background check.

[Under federal law](#), the Secretary of DHS is expected to review a country’s conditions at least 60 days before the end of a country’s TPS designation and determine whether to extend or terminate TPS for the country.² If the Secretary determines the country no longer meets the conditions for a designation, DHS is expected to publish a formal notice of termination. Even then, the termination is not to be effective until 60 days after the date of publication. If the Secretary takes no action, the period is supposed to be extended for an additional 6 months. In the current situation related to Ukraine, DHS has not made any formal announcement regarding its designation, leaving over 100,000 Ukrainian TPS recipients in a state of uncertainty.

In April 2022, Ukraine first [received](#) its TPS designation after Russia expanded its military invasion of the country, marking the “largest conventional military action in Europe since World War II.”³ Approximately [26,000 Ukrainians](#) were granted TPS under the initial designation period, and by 2025 there were roughly [103,700 TPS beneficiaries](#) eligible to re-register under the extension.⁴ Given the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine and the [resulting destruction, displacement, and instability](#),⁵ a safe return of over 100,000 Ukrainians would not be feasible at this time. The U.S. State Department

¹ U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs., *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Ukraine*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/TPS-Ukraine> (last updated Oct. 19, 2026).

² 8 U.S.C. § 1254a.

³ Designation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status, 87 Fed. Reg. 23,211 (Apr. 19, 2022).

⁴ Extension and Redesignation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status, 88 Fed. Reg. 56,872 (Aug. 21, 2023); Extension of the Designation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg. 5,936 (Jan. 17, 2025).

⁵ Catholic Relief Serv., *Ukraine*, <https://www.crs.org/where-we-work/europe/ukraine> (last visited Oct. 20, 2026).

maintains a strict [“Do Not Travel” advisory](#) for the country in response to these very same life-threatening conditions.⁶

In recent months, DHS has terminated TPS designations for various countries, often while existing conditions in those countries make return of large numbers of people unsafe or impractical. In September 2026, hundreds of thousands of Salvadoran TPS recipients also found themselves in a similar situation as Ukrainians with TPS when DHS [did not terminate or extend El Salvador’s TPS designation](#).⁷ A formal announcement regarding its designation remains pending.

What is the difference between TPS and humanitarian parole?

Between April 2022 and January 2025, the U.S. government operated the [Uniting for Ukraine program](#),⁸ which allowed Ukrainians with a sponsor in the United States to receive humanitarian parole. Humanitarian parole is a temporary permission to enter and reside in the country and provides the opportunity for beneficiaries to request employment authorization. In total, over 200,000 people entered the United States through the Uniting for Ukraine program. While applications for the program were suspended, those who received humanitarian parole through the program generally continue to be able to [request re-parole through USCIS](#).⁹ However, people are increasingly facing [processing delays](#) with their re-parole requests,¹⁰ leading some to lose their parole and work authorization and become unlawfully present in the United States. It is possible to have humanitarian parole and TPS simultaneously, and those whose parole expires may still have TPS and vice versa.

How has the USCCB responded to this issue?

In June 2026, Bishop Brendan Cahill, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration, issued a [statement](#) citing the moral crisis created by revoking legal protection for hundreds of thousands of people in the United States when returning to their country of origin is not a safe or reasonable option.¹¹

Days before the Ukraine TPS designation was set to expire, Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, chairman-elect of the USCCB’s Committee on International Justice and Peace, [addressed the situation](#), saying many Ukrainians relying on TPS in the United States “have no home to go back to.”¹² The [USCCB has also separately stated](#) that it

⁶ U.S. Dep’t of State, *Ukraine Travel Advisory*, <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/ukraine.html> (last updated Sept. 3, 2026).

⁷ USCCB, UPDATE ON TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR EL SALVADOR (Sept. 24, 2026), <https://www.usccb.org/resources/El%20Salvador%20TPS%20Update.pdf>.

⁸ U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec., *Uniting for Ukraine*, <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/uniting-ukraine> (last updated Mar. 12, 2025).

⁹ U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs, *Re-Parole Process for Certain Ukrainian Citizens and Their Immediate Family Members*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/re-parole-process-for-certain-ukrainian-citizens-and-their-immediate-family-members> (last updated Oct. 11, 2024).

¹⁰ See, e.g., Letter from Members of Congress to USCIS Director Joseph B. Edlow (Mar. 24, 2026), https://walkinshaw.house.gov/uploadedfiles/2026.03.24_u4u_program_processing_delays_final.pdf.

¹¹ Press Release, USCCB, We Cannot Turn a Blind Eye to Injustice, Says Bishop Cahill (June 26, 2026), <https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/we-cannot-turn-blind-eye-injustice-says-bishop-cahill>.

¹² Carol Glatz, *Temporary Protections for Ukrainians in U.S. Set to Expire, Trigger Deportation, Archbishop Says*, CATH. NEWS SERV. (Oct. 16, 2026), <https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/temporary-protections-ukrainians-us-set-expire-trigger-deportation-archbishop-says>.

“continues to urge the Administration to abide by the requirements of the TPS statute, to carefully consider conditions in countries of origin and the threats to human life that could come with forcibly repatriating people, and to provide meaningful notice about the future of these designations so that families, employers, and communities can plan accordingly.”¹³

Additionally, the USCCB has long supported legislative efforts in the U.S. Congress to provide a pathway to permanent legal status for longtime residents of the United States who have relied on TPS, such as through the bipartisan [American Dream and Promise Act](#).¹⁴ Under current law, there is no direct pathway to permanent legal status for TPS holders. This bill would create a long-term solution for those in this situation who have contributed positively to the fabric of American life and have established equities in the country, such as having U.S.-citizen spouses and children, owning businesses, and more.

¹³ Kate Scanlon, *Trump Administration Extends TPS for Ukraine, Sudan, but Uncertainty Remains*, OSV NEWS (Oct. 19, 2026), <https://www.osvnews.com/trump-administration-extends-tps-for-ukraine-sudan-but-uncertainty-remains/>.

¹⁴ USCCB, *Ask Your Representative to Support a Just Solution for TPS Holders and Dreamers*, <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/139633/Respond>.